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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/410,952

10/05/1999

JEFFREY PAUL NOLD

198-1601

7681

7590

02/10/2005

Lyon & Artz PLC
28333 TELEGRAPH ROAD
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034

EXAMINER

ULLAH, AKM E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2874

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/410,952

Applicant(s)

NOLD ET AL.

Examiner

Akm Enayet Ullah

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date #2 and # 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

Applicant cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Status of the Application

Claims 1- 21 are pending in this application.

In response to a restriction requirement dated November 30, 2001 applicant elected on December 13, 2001, Group I, claims 1-16 for the examination purpose without traverse.

If applicant is aware of any prior art or any other co- pending application not already of record, he/she is reminded of his/her duty under 37 CFR 1.56 to disclose the same.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

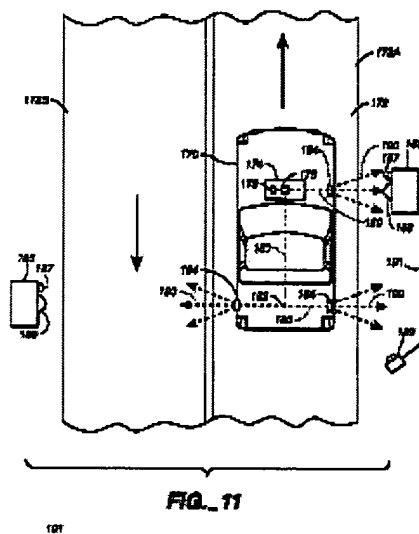
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1 - 5, 8 -11, 13-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Scifres (USPNO.6, 152,588).

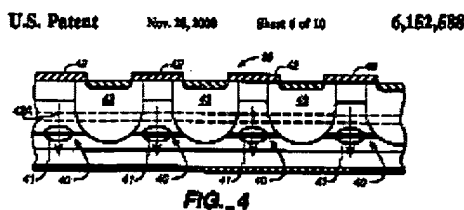
Figure 11 of Scifres (USPNO.6,152,588) discloses a vehicular lighting system comprising a semiconductor light sources or laser diodes (176) is optically coupled to a fiber optic waveguide. Fiber waveguides distally transmits the beams to the optical loads of the vehicle, including the brake lights, taillights, instrumentation lights and turn signals. Each fiber optical waveguide is a single optical fiber (180).



Reproduced from USPNO. 6,152,588

Coupler having a body and a plurality of lenslets (184) which is corresponding to a respective light source and each lenslet directing light through the body to the optical fiber and each lenslet directing light through the body to the optical fiber.

Regarding claims 2 & 11, body has sides with a predetermined angle with respect to a face of optical fiber as is shown in figure 11.



Reproduced from USPNO. 6,152,588

Regarding claim 4, the light sources comprise a wafer having a plurality of laser cavities clearly shown in the above figure 4.

Regarding claims 8 & 16, wherein said plurality of lenslets collimated light in a first direction mentioned in column 6, lines 44-46 of the reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

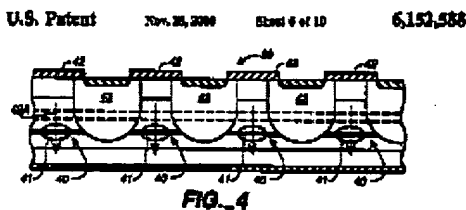
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 6-7, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scifres (USPNO.6,152, 588).

Regarding claim 6, wedge shape of the lenslets has an angle directing light to a face of said optical fiber mentioned in column 9, lines 45-52.

Scifres fails to mention regarding claims 7 & 15, wherein said angle increases as a distance from a center emitter increases. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the teachings of Scifres since an important feature of the invention is that the beam, exiting from the output end of fiber 30B provides for sufficient diffusion of the coherent light so as to render it harmless when the beam is viewed with the naked eye beyond lens 133 and also it improves the safety of the source by reducing its brightness. For details see column 7, last paragraph.



Reproduced from USPNO. 6,152,588

Regarding claim 12, wherein said predetermined angle allows substantially total internal reflection of said light within said body shown in figure that a monolithic structure and lens and lens are directed at a predetermined angle which is 90 degree angle. For details see column 9, second paragraph.

Scifres reference fails to teach the teachings of total internal reflection of said light within said body. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to arrange such internal reflection light within the body since, applicant has not disclosed that the criticality of using total internal reflection of light solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and its appears that the invention would perform equally well with any arrangement where total internal reflection of light is not even within the body.

Cited Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Mori (USPNO. 4,389,085) and Haruta (USPNO. 5,633,967) are also cited to show a typical lighting system respectively.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akm Enayet Ullah whose telephone number is 571-272-2361. The examiners can normally be reached on Monday through Wednesday from 5:30 am to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick, can be reached on Monday through Friday whose telephone number is 571-272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Akm Enayet Ullah
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2874

Aullah

January 13, 2005